

**Town of Northfield  
Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes January 12, 2015  
Municipal Building 6:00pm**

Attendees: Sally Davidson, Scott Amell, Michele Langley, Bruce Wright, Heidi Passalacqua (members); Ken Goslant (Selectman-liaison)

Absent: Jason Miles/Dynamos Soccer representative,

- I. Call to order: 610pm
- II. Review and approval of minutes-approved
- III. Old business: reports from last meeting- Scott said that the Legion IS interested in having the chili cook off but has a meeting 1/13 for a “full” board meeting to discuss. Once they approve they will decide and let us know. Discussion among the committee regarding time frame of the event and if we wanted to “steer them in a direction as to time”. Bruce, who hadn’t attended chili event last year (was working one of venues) wanted to know about the time it should happen or whether we just let them host it. Scott was going to guide them and suggest to them what Senior Center did last year in terms of how they presented it. It was a well-organized event in terms of number of entries, it was just the intention was to have it be part of the supper and it wasn’t very well communicated. He will let us know tomorrow about whether they will do it, and if they will have a dance or not. Sarah Snow at Brown public library wants to plan from 11-12 at Brown Public library. (Susan Wright volunteered to help at library). They (library) will make crafts to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Children 5 and under can come with an adult, children 6 and up are welcome to come alone. Others can come alone. Free and no registration needed. Scott has spoken to Common Café; O’Maddi’s Depot Square and will talk with Shamrock about the coloring contest. This year the contest will consist of the business having the pictures, we will supply the crayons and pictures to the businesses. The contest will run Feb. 1-14<sup>th</sup> and the businesses will supply their own prizes and winners. Michele will do the announcement. Heidi reported she had put the subject of winter carnival on Front Porch Forum but had only gotten one response as of the meeting, but it was positive towards having the snow sculptures around “the neighborhood” judged by a committee. Scott will seek prizes; Heidi will announce on Front Porch forum. Sally will call Jerry Bean to act as a judge, as well as Michele to ask Nancy Smith, and Susan Wright as judges. Judging will occur on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will need contact information to go to these following people. They would need to contact Michele by the 13<sup>th</sup>. Distance will be within 5 miles of the common. Heidi will also contact Trans-video to see if they will advertise the contest and the “carnival” on their events calendar.
- IV. Scott had had discussion with the fire department in regards to the ice rink surface which will likely not happen where it did last year next to fire station. Scott will talk to Fred at Norwich about public skating. And available ice time. Ken and Scott will work on this as it may be able to work on coinciding with a meet and greet with Norwich club team. We discussed where we could do snow shoe path down at the falls and possibly host a whiffle ball tournament as well as utilize the Rotary building for the purpose of warming up, selling concessions and having as a fundraiser. This will not be able to happen in the Falls this year. Scott and Bruce feel the best thing for next year. Snow Shoeing, cross country skiing and a snowmobile ride (if optimal conditions) at Memorial Park 12-3. Rec Northfield T shirts available. Scott talked about using the dugouts for warming up.

- V. Michele, Scott, and Heidi went before the select board 12/18/14 and presented highlights (see attached) for the purpose of presenting request for budget. We believe we have approval for going forward with the beginnings of our renovations at Memorial Park with restrooms. Town manager indicated he would speak with road crew in regards to sewer and water lines going up King Street in request to making sure when they are doing the water project they can do what our request for sewer( from King Street through parking area to where current third base little league dugout is- see attached). Bruce will need to talk to Laurie regarding the Capital improvement or "cip" is. Also if we have been given a certain budget and we don't use it do we lose it. Actually we really don't know what it is? We discussed that we think we have money if that is what our budget currently is and where our monies are. We know we have \$550. We also know we have a donation fund of 3,469.50. We need to know is the rest if we think is around the \$8900 in the capital improvement fund as we have two outstanding approved funds and need to know how to read our statements.
- VI. New Business: announcement of "Brown Fields" \$43,000 grant award to Northfield was announced which was a collaboration. Not sure if the Recreation Committee will have ability to have any of these funds for development or not. Will table this for next meeting. Elizabeth Craffey emailed Heidi. She was one of the students who was involved in the project of revitalization from 2013 to this last spring. She wants to finish her project for the group. She is now working in Woodstock. Heidi emailed her and she will sit down after winter carnival and report. Discussion from group about a member of our group going in front of Select board each quarter. Ken outlined the process for the group of how to get on the agenda. Heidi will use the information she used for the select board meeting for the annual report. She spoke about some of the resources she used for the presentation called (SCORP) or a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The reasons to use it for our plan is for rating our priorities "better understanding of the needs and concerns of public regarding recreation". Heidi indicated using it for the presentation and referred to it. Trail based recreation is a popular recreation, mountain biking, ATVing, hunting and fishing with the following five municipal priorities identified as of 2011: Parks and open space, bike/pedestrian trails, Baseball/softball fields, hiking trails, Soccer fields. The document is available online and is about 227 pages long and contains "a plan" up to 2017. Suggestion for each member to look at it.
- VII. Public participation- none  
Next meeting: February 9, 2015
- VIII. adjournment